CLAIMS

1. A method of providing a filter for a router, comprising the steps of:

providing a set of pre-written router filters within one or more files;

providing a router filter written specifically for the router;

running a program on a computer to identify one of the pre-written filter files as a substitute for said specifically written filter; and

loading said one of the pre-written filters onto the router.

2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the running step includes the step of running the program on the computer to identify which one of the pre-written filters most closely matches, according to a defined test, said specifically written filter.

3. A method according to Claim 2, wherein said test is a pre-defined test.

4. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the running step includes the step of running the program on the computer to identify which one of the pre-written filters most closely matches the specifically written filter according to a predefined set of criteria.

5. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of running the program includes the step of identifying defined features of the specifically written filter, and searching the pre-written filters for the identified defined features.

6. A system for providing a filter for a router, comprising:

computer readable medium including a set of pre-written router filters;

computer readable medium including a router filter written specifically for the router;

computer readable medium including a program for running on a computer to identify one of the pre-written filters as a substitute for said specifically written filter; and

means for loading said one of the pre-written filters onto the router.

7. A system according to Claim 6, wherein the program includes means to identify which one of the pre-written filters most closely matches, according to a defined test, a filter in the said specifically written filter file.

8. A system according to Claim 7, wherein said test is a pre-defined test.

9. A system according to Claim 6, wherein the program includes means to identify which one of the pre-written filter files most closely matches the specifically written filter file according to a predefines set of criteria.

10. A system according to Claim 1, wherein the program includes means for identifying defined features of the specifically written filters, and for searching the pre-written filters for the identified defined features.

11. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for identifying a filter for a router, said method steps comprising:

reading a set of pre-written router filters within one or more filter files;

reading a router filter file written specifically for the router; and

identifying one of the pre-written filters within the pre-written filter files as a substitute for said specifically written filter within the router specific filter file.

12. A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein the identifying step includes the step of identifying which one of the pre-written filter files most closely matches, according to a defined test, said specifically written filter file.

13. A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein said method steps further include the step of loading the identified filter file onto the router.

14. A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein the identifying step includes the step of identifying which one of the pre-written filters most closely matches the specifically written filter file according to a predefines set of criteria.

15. A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein the identifying step includes the step of identifying defined features of the specifically written filter file, and searching the pre-written filter files for the identified defined features.